

For the reasons set forth above, all claims are allowable, and an early indication of such is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



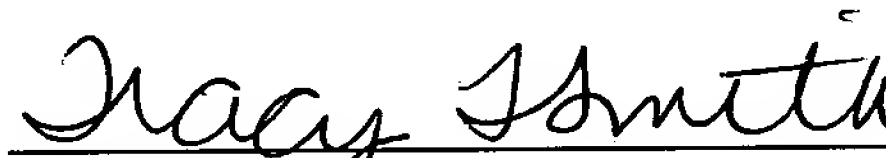
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Dated: June 28, 2000

988-8360

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the attached **AMENDMENT** is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on June 28, 2000.



Tracy L. Smith

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Bill Honaker
240/723-0422